GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5389
ANSWERED ON:28.08.2001
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEDIA PRESS
P.D. ELANGOVAN

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Code of Conduct or Norms for the Media/Press persons for tresspassing and entering in prohibited areas like Government office premises; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (I.D. SWAMI)

(a) & (b): Some of the Ministries/Departments/Offices of the Central Government in New Delhi are under the security cover of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Entry into such office premises is restricted to persons in possession of photo passes or temporary passes (without photographs), validation slips or visitors` passes issued by Pass Cell/Reception Organization in the MHA. `Open` photo passes, valid for entry into all office premises under the security cover of MHA except some highly sensitive ones, are issued to Gazetted officers, while non-Gazetted officials are normally issued `Restricted` photo passes valid for entry into specified buildings. On the merit of each case, open/restricted photo passes or validation slips are also issued to officials of State/UT Governments, PSUs and Corporations, media persons and others in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

Such of the offices of the Central Government which are not under the security cover of MHA have made their own arrangements for security and access control.

Any person who enters a Government office premises, where entry is restricted, without a valid open or restricted pass or visitors` pass is liable to be evicted from the building by the security staff. Where applicable and in appropriate cases, the provisions of the Indian Penal Code in regard to criminal trespass can also be invoked against unauthorised entrants.